

Katrina's Jewish Voices Oral History Project

A joint project of the Jewish Women's Archive &
the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Pre-Interview Questionnaire

Please print clearly

1. Name (current):

First SUSAN Middle OKUN Last HESS

Former last name(s):

Maiden OKUN Married ASCHAFFENBURG

2. Current Address:

Street 8 GARDEN LANE

City N.O. State LA zip 70124

Neighborhood Country Club Gardens (Midcity)

3. Pre-Katrina Address (if different):

Street same

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Neighborhood _____

4. Other contact information:

Home Phone (504) 488-2931

Office Phone _____ Cell (504) 615-5294

Email CARLIESUE@AOL.COM

5. Date of Birth 9, 28, 45

Place of Birth new York, NY

FAMILY OF ORIGIN

6. Mother's Name Miriam Ury Okun

Year of Birth 1918 Year of Death (if applicable) 2002

Place of Birth new York Occupation(s) secretary

7. Father's Name Harry Arthur Okun
Year of Birth 1914 Year of Death (if applicable) 1985
Place of Birth Detroit Occupation(s) Clothing Buyer

8. Siblings' Information

Name	Birth Year	Pre-Katrina City/State	Post-Katrina City/State	Occupation	Year of Death
<u>Janice Okun Silver</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>pre + post K</u>	<u>Manalapan, NJ</u>	<u>Housewife</u>	

9. When and from what country/region/city did your family immigrate to the United States?
Mother's Family France
Father's Family Belarus (Minsk)

10. If possible, list the main places where your parents and grandparents lived.
Maternal relatives Brooklyn, NY
Paternal relatives Detroit, MI and NY

11. Where did you grow up? New York (Long Island)
If NOLA, what were your important affiliations (e.g. schools, synagogues, other institutions)?

12. If not New Orleans or the Gulf Coast, when and why did you come here?
Came as a bride at age 19 in 1965
(3 days before Hurricane Betsy)

RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES & AFFILIATIONS

13. What was your childhood synagogue affiliation (if any)? Central Synagogue
Rockville Centre, L.I., N.Y.
Denomination: Reform Conservative Orthodox Other

14. What synagogue did you belong to at the time of Katrina? Temple Sinai
Denomination: Reform Conservative Orthodox Other

15. Have you been involved in Jewish communal organizations? Yes No
If so, which one(s)? NCTW, Hadassah, Jewish Federation,
Israel Bonds, Hillel

16. Has your synagogue affiliation changed since Katrina? Yes No

17. Have your experiences since Hurricane Katrina changed your sense and/or feelings about the Jewish community? Yes No

If yes, how? I want to be in touch more. attend more events, be with other people

WORK - PAID & VOLUNTEER

18. What was your occupation at the time of Hurricane Katrina?

Fund raises for LA/SPCA (Humane Society)

19. If you were employed outside of your home, what was your place of employment?

20. Please describe volunteer work, including civic, community, religious, charitable, and political work, which has been significant to you.

I do lots of fund raising for above mentioned Jewish causes plus SPCA, City Park, UNO, Nat World War II museum, Trust for Public Land

PERSONAL STATUS

21. Are you currently:

Married/Partnered Widowed Divorced Single In Significant Relationship

22. Name of spouse/partner/significant other

William Hess

Occupation

private investor; volunteer in Jewish Community

23. Please list the following information for your children:

Name	Year of Birth	Occupation	Pre-Katrina City of Residence	Post-Katrina City of Residence	# of Children
DARREA ASCHAFFENBURG	1969	Real Estate	N.O.	NO	—
A. Audrey Hess Mustanda	1975	Vet	MIAMI	NO	—
Joshua Hess	1978	Teacher	NO	atlanta → NO	—

IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA

24. When did you evacuate? Wednesday after the storm

25. Where did you initially evacuate to? Baton Rouge

26. Did you go to any other places/cities after your initial destination? Yes No

If yes, where and approximately how long were you in each place? _____

Telluride, Co for 6 weeks

27. Have you returned? Yes No If so, when did you return? October

28. If you have not returned, do you plan to? Yes No Undecided
If so, when? _____

If not, what are your current plans? _____

29. What was the impact of Katrina on your job?

I have much more work now, in every way

30. What happened to your home? Some wind damages a tree

fell on one part.

31. Please tell us any significant events or issues about how Hurricane Katrina impacted you and your family that you would like to discuss in an interview. (Use additional page if necessary.)

all our children have decided to return to New Orleans to be a part of the solution. Their friends are coming back also. New Orleans will be a young people's town now.